sequences encoding same (and nucleic acids complementary to such encoding sequences).

Certain aspects of the invention can be described in greater detail in the non-limiting Examples that follows.

EXAMPLE 1

Artificial HIV-1 Group M Consensus Envelope

EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

Expression of CON6 gp120 and gp140 proteins in recombinant vaccinia viruses (VV). To express and purify the secreted form of HIV-1 CON6 envelope proteins, CON6 gp120 and gp140CF plasmids were constructed by introducing stop codons after the gp120 cleavage site (REKR) and before the transmembrane domain (YIKIFIMIVGGLIGLRIVFAVLSIVN), respectively. The gp120/gp41 cleavage site and fusion domain of gp41 were deleted in the gp140CF protein. Both CON6 gp120 and gp140CF DNA constructs were cloned into the pSC65 vector (from Bernard Moss, NIH, Bethesda, MD) at SalI and KpnI restriction enzyme sites. This vector contains the lacZ gene that is controlled by the p7.5 promoter. A back-to-back P E/L promoter was used to express CON6 *env* genes. BSC-1 cells were seeded at 2×10^5 in each well in a 6-well plate, infected with wild-type vaccinia virus (WR) at a MOI of 0.1 pfu/cell, and 2 hr after infection, pSC65-derived plasmids

Sequence identifiers required.